

英語暗唱 2年 清水 凜音 ◆石巻地区英語暗唱コンクール優秀賞

Red Demon and Blue Demon

Once upon a time, Red Demon and Blue Demon lived in the mountains of Japan.

Red Demon wanted to be friends with children. So he put a board in front of his house. He wrote these words on the board: "Open house. Please come in." But everyone was afraid of him,



so no one came in. He felt sad and finally took the board away. One day, Blue Demon came to Red Demon's house. He said, "Do you really want to be friends with children?"

Red Demon said, "Yes, I do."

"Okay. I have an idea," Blue Demon said.

Red Demon listened to his idea and said, "That's a good idea, but you may have a hard time."

"Don't worry," Blue Demon said.

Then, they went down to the village.

Some children were playing in the village. Suddenly, Blue Demon came. He shouted, "Get out of here, or I'll hurt you." The children were afraid and cried, "Help us!"

Then, Red Demon came and shouted, "Go away!" Blue Demon whispered, "Hit me. It's okay." Red Demon hit Blue Demon, and Blue Demon ran away.

"Thank you for saving us. You're very strong and kind.

Let's play together!" the children said. They went to Red Demon's house and played together.

A few days later, Red Demon went to Blue Demon's house to thank him. Red Demon found a letter on the door.

Dear Red Demon,

I' m glad you have many new friends now. I want to see you again, but I' m afraid I' ll scare your new friends. So, I' ll go far away. I' ll always be your friend. Good-bye,

Blue Demon

Red Demon read it many times. He cried. He never saw Blue Demon again.

Since I was in seventh grade, I've worked as one of the leaders in our student council. We produce many school events and talk about problems to make our school better and more enjoyable. As one of our projects, we check if there is bullying in our school. We make surveys for all students.

We ask, "Are you being bullied or did you see someone else who was bullied by others?" We discuss the results and messages from students. Sometimes there are "Yes" answers and some messages about bullying. One entry said, "My friend sometimes says bad things. It's not so serious. She just says one or two words, like "Stupid", or "Ugly". But she doesn' t care about how her words affect people and always laughs. I don't like it." Another said, "I have a friend. Sometimes he punches my shoulders. We play together every day, so I don't mind so much, but these days it happens more. What should I do?" When we read them, we didn't feel the seriousness from the messages. We just talked to each other, "It' s not serious friends." "Time will solve it." We didn't think we had to do something special.

Last year I had a chance to join "Stop! Ijime Ishinomaki Children Summit". Many leaders from all junior high schools in Ishinomaki City gathered and reported their actions to stop bullying in their schools. I learned many things from their reports. They talked long and hard about the bullying they were facing and what they were doing to stop it. I was very impressed. They are real leaders. Now I too have to challenge everything.

Now I am the president of Inai Junior High School Student Council. I'm trying new ideas. For example, we started the "Good Point Cards" project. I remade this project from the ideas I learned at the summit last year. It's very easy and very effective. When we find good points or deeds of other people, we write them on sticky memos and put them on a large paper in the hall. We think if we can realize our own good points in others' eyes, then we can live our school lives with confidence. It will help better communication and we can decrease or stop bullying. We continued the surveys as well, but we made a small change. Last year the surveys didn't need names, but this year we ask students to write their names. Some students might think they can't speak the truth if they have to tell their names. I know we can't say so easily to others, "I am being bullied. Help me." But I know we can say, "My friend is being bullied." or "My friend is having a hard time now. So please help him." I hope all students will believe us and tell us the truth. We want to solve our bullying problems ourselves.

Bullying can happen suddenly to anyone. Anyone can bully and can be bullied. Once it starts it's difficult to stop. The most important thing is to try to be kind and friendly to everyone. If we can do this, we can stop bullying. Please join us in the fight against bullying.

英語弁論 3年 若生 智香 ◆石巻地区英語弁論コンクール優秀賞 **" The Fight "**

A 13-year-old boy had committed suicide by throwing himself under a train in Iwate. I was very shocked when I saw the news on TV. Then I heard the worst word, "ijime, or bullying". "Why did he have to jump onto the railway? Why couldn't the people around



him save his life? His father, mother, classmates, teachers, and if he had, his friends? What do the students who know about this bullying think about his death?" Many questions in my mind made me deeply disappointed. "If he was a student at our school, of course, he could come to school and enjoy his life," I thought. "There is no bullying in our school."

- ※1 "Red Demon & Blue Demon"は、「泣いた赤鬼」のお話です。 小さい頃に話を聞いたり、読んだりした人も多いと思います。
- ※2 "The Fight"は全国的に問題となっている「いじめ問題」を取り 上げ、いじめに対する自分の考えや、生徒会での取り組みについて スピーチしています。

